



## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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#### **DLNR BEGINS IMPROVEMENTS AT LAVA TREE STATE MONUMENT**

HILO -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will begin construction improvements at the unique Lava Tree State Monument starting today, February 22. The park features a .7-mile loop footpath through various formations of lava molds of 'ohia tree trunks created from a 1790 lava flow that swept through this forested area.

DLNR's accessibility improvements at the Monument will include alterations to the parking with access aisle; comfort station; pathway to the picnic pavilion and related signage. Roofing improvements to the comfort station will also be made.

The Monument will be open during construction and appropriate safety measures will be implemented to safeguard park users and visitors. Portable toilets will be provided during closure of the comfort station.

"Lava Tree State Monument is a special attraction as it possesses unique features and resources. These improvements are part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration's ongoing efforts to upgrade our state parks statewide and to ensure safety, comfort and accessibility for all residents and visitors who use the parks," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR chairperson.

"We appreciate the public's patience and understanding for any inconveniences during this construction period," she said.

Project contractor is Central Construction and the contract cost is \$220,904.00. Construction is expected to be completed in August 2008.

(more)

The 2007 State Legislature approved the Lingle-Aiona Administration's request for \$2 million for additional improvements that are currently being planned and reviewed.

The Administration is requesting an additional \$5 million in its fiscal year 2009 supplemental budget for improvements and upgrades to state park facilities statewide.

Lava Tree State Monument is located off Pahoa-Pohoiki Road (Highway 132), 2.7 miles southeast of Pahoa.

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For more information, media may contact:

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